



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Benefits Administration**  
**Education Service**  
**Washington, DC 20420**

February 24, 2011

President / Department Head  
All Institutions of Higher Learning

Dear Higher Education Executive:

In 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) introduced the Post-9/11 GI Bill, an initiative to improve the quality of education and life of our nation's Veterans. As an important part of the new GI Bill, VA also introduced the Yellow Ribbon Program; a way for Veterans and their dependents to attend higher cost academic programs and institutions that exceed the standard payable rates. For the 2010-2011 academic year over 1100 institutions opted to enter into an agreement with VA to match contributions to pay for higher cost education for veterans. VA is pleased to announce it is now soliciting for participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program for the 2011-2012 academic year (August 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012).

*Please note the following changes that may effect your planning for the Yellow Ribbon Program:* Effective August 1, 2011, Public Law 111-377 - "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010", caps the maximum payment of tuition and fees at \$17,500 per academic year for private and foreign schools. The Yellow Ribbon Program can be utilized for tuition and fees above the \$17,500 at Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) in the U.S. or at a branch of the IHL that is located outside of the United States. The actual net cost for tuition and fees can only be charged after an assessment has been made by the institution for the program of education and shall be applied after the application of any waiver of, or reduction in tuition and fees. This includes any scholarship(s), or other Federal, State, institutional, or employer-based aid or assistance (other than loans and any funds provided under section 401(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965) that is provided directly to the institution and specifically designated for the sole purpose of defraying tuition and fees.

The law also provides for payment for all public in-state tuition and fees (undergraduate, graduate and Doctoral). The Yellow Ribbon Program could also be utilized for out-of-state tuition and fees at public IHLs.

Please see the "FAQs for Schools Clarifying the Impact of PL 111-377 for the Yellow Ribbon Program" included with this letter on the website. Additional

information pertaining to the "Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvements Act of 2010" can be found at [http://www.gibill.va.gov/post-911/post-911-gi-bill-summary/Post911\\_changes.html](http://www.gibill.va.gov/post-911/post-911-gi-bill-summary/Post911_changes.html).

IHL's requesting participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program must enter into an agreement with the VA each year, whether it is to renew participation from the previous academic year or if this is the first year of participation. The deadline for submission of the agreement form is May 23, 2011.

If requesting participation for 2011-2012, the institution must submit a *signed* agreement via mail or with a scanned PDF document through email. We strongly recommend that IHLs submit their signed agreement through email, requesting a confirmation "read receipt" as proof of receipt by the VA. Please submit only one signed agreement.

Included with this letter on the website are the agreement form, instructions, and a checklist. Please use the instructions and checklist to help ensure accurate and timely completion of the agreement form.

With your support, we can ensure that our nation's veterans and dependents receive the education benefits they deserve when returning from active duty.

/s/

KEITH M. WILSON  
Director, Education Service